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PROGRAM From the Editor's Desk STATION WETA-TV  
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DATE August 27, 1984 1:00 P.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Secretary Abrams/Human Rights Policy

RICHARD HEFNER: I'm Richard Hefner. Each week I chair our editorial board. Joining me today is Alvin Schuster, Foreign Editor of the Los Angeles Times. Also with me here at the Editor's Desk is Daniel Henninger, Assistant Editorial Page Editor of the Wall Street Journal. And our guest in Washington is Elliot Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs.

Secretary Abrams has long been the Administration's most articulate defender against the charge that Ronald Reagan's human rights policy has been a litany of failure. Most often, Mr. Abrams seems down to the earth, pragmatic in his opposition to liberal attacks. Indeed, he's quoted John Kennedy as saying "Americans' purpose is not to provide an outlook for our own sentiments of hope or imagination, it's to shape real events in the real world."

And this year's annual United States Survey of Human Rights, released by Secretary Abrams, says, "Our aim is to achieve results, not to make self-satisfying but ineffective gestures."

So that I'd like to ask our guest if he embraces Jesse Jackson, whose person-to-person efforts to free prisoners in the Mideast and Cuba, and now perhaps in the Soviet Union, surely have been effective for the human rights prisoners involved.

Mr. Secretary?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE ELLIOT ABRAMS: No, I don't. Because if you take the case of Cuba, as an example, there are broad human rights issues in Cuba. What Jesse Jackson